

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2313

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, MR

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA

REF: STATE 265503

1. AMBASSADOR OBTAINED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA MORNING NOVEMBER 10 WITH AMBASSADOR BAKAR OULD SIDI HAIBA, DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DIVISION AND ACTING DIRECTOR POLITICAL DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN DETAILED PRESENTATION OF POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL, I PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON FACT MPLA CONTROLS ONLY ONE-THIRD OF TERRITORY AND PEOPLE, AND THUS HARDLY QUALIFIES IN TERMS INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE FOR RECOGNITION AS GOVERNMENT OF SOON-TO-BE INDEPENDENT ANGOLA. NOTED THAT U.S. THEREFORE DOES NOT INTEND TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO ANTICIPATED REQUEST BY MPLA FOR RECOGNITION AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, DECLARED WE BELIEVED THAT ACCORDING RECOGNITION TO MPLA WOULD IN FACT IMPEDE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GIRM WOULD ALSO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION OF MPLA "GOVERNMENT".

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST RE STATUS OF ONGOING OAU EFFORTS TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTION, SIDI HAIBA REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAS BEEN KEEPING IN CLOSE
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TOUCH OF LATE WITH OAU PRESIDENT AMIN, AND THAT FOREIGN

MINISTRY HAS BEEN IN CLOSE AND REGULAR CONTACT WITH OAU SECRETARIAT AND WITH NUMBER OF OAU MEMBERS ON ANGOLA SITUATION. GIRM LAST WEEK ADDRESSED SPECIAL APPEAL TO OAU AND TO SEVERAL AFRICAN MEMBER NATIONS TO MAINTAIN AND INTENSIFY PRESSURE ON LEADERSHIP OF TZMAEE LIBERATION GROUPS TO REACH COMPROMISE SOLUTION PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. BUT GIRM IS NOT RPT NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF OAU PEACE EFFORTS, AND REGARDS SITUATION AS DISQUIETING. SIDI HAIBA INDEED REPORTED THAT HE HAD JUST COME FROM REVIEW AND LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF GLOOMY ANGOLA REPORTS WHICH HAD COME IN OVER WEEKEND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. ACKNOWLEDGING PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION AND DIFFICULTY WHICH MPLA REQUEST WOULD POSE, SIDI HAIBA INDICATED GIRM SEES PROBLEM IN TERMS OF AND IS MUCH MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ALMOST CERTAIN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED NATIONS BY ONE-FACTION GOVERNMENT. IN PROCESS OF SIDE-STEPPING DIRECT ANSWER RE GIRM'S PLANS FOR HANDLING OF MPLA RECOGNITION BID, SIDI HAIBA NOTED THAT OAU IS DIVIDED ON RECOGNITION/MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. ACCORDING TO SIDI HAIBA, NUMBER OF OAU MEMBERS, GIVEN ANTICIPATED OPPOSITION OF MANY IN UN TO MEMBERSHIP OF RUMP GOVERNMENT, BELIEVE ANGOLA'S FORMAL UN CANDIDACY SHOULD BE HELD UP UNTIL WORKABLE COMPROMISE IS HAMMERED OUT AMONG THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND COALITION GOVERNMENT IS SET UP. HE IMPLIED BROADLY THAT MAURITANIA SHARES VIEW OF THIS OAU GROUP.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, SIDI HAIBA DECLARED GIRM'S INFORMATION ABOUT ANGOLA SITUATION AND IN PARTICULAR ABOUT OUA PEACE EFFORTS CORRESPONDED CLOSELY TO OURS. HE EXPLICITLY NOTED THAT MPLA HAD INFORMED GIRM THAT IT CONTROLLED 12 DISTRICT CAPITALS. HE CLEARLY HAD NO EVIDENCE EITHER TO CONFIRM OR DISPUTE OUR MUCH SMALLER MPLA FIGURE. (I ACCORDINGLY REPEATED AND UNDERScoreD OUR BELIEF THAT MPLA CONTROLLED ONLY ONE-THIRD OF TERRITORY AND PEOPLE.) SIDI HAIBA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NATIONAL OR COALITION GOVERNMENT SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE DESPITE WIDELY DIVERGING PHILOSOPHICAL POSITIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL AMBITIONS PROVIDED LEADERSHIP OF ALL THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS PREPARED TO COMPROMISE. BUT HE HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR THIS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE OPTION.

5. I CAME AWAY WITH THREE IMPRESSIONS: GIRM IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ANGOLA PROBLEM AND CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE THERE; IS WORKING ACTIVELY AND HARD

WITH ITS AFRICAN NEIGHBORS (AND WITH AN EYE ON
REACTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY) TO BRING ABOUT
COMPROMISE, NEGOTIATED SOLUTION; BUT IS VERY PESSI-
MISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS OF AVERTING LONG AND BLODDY
CIVIL WAR WHICH WILL PUSH REAL SOLUTION TO ANGOLA
PROBLEM EVEN FURTHER INTO FUTURE.HANDSUIDE

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